(b) The fields are located in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

(c) 117 bids have been received for these fields.

(d) and (e) No bids were submitted for the fields in Assam. As submission of bids by companies is a commercial decision, it is not possible to give any reasons for bids not being received for the oilfields in Assam.

Gas processing capacity in the Country

341. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission's gas processing complex at Hazira proposes to double its capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the gas processing capacity in the country is inadequate to meet its demand; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to boost production of gas in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) ONGC are implementing a project to enhance the processing capacity of the Hazira gas Terminal from 20 MMSCMD to 41 MMSCMD.

(c) While gas processing capacity in the country is by and large adequate to meet the present off-take, several projects are being implemented to raise this capacity to handle the higher availability of natural gas estimated in future in order to meet supplies to consumers to whom this gas has been committed.

(d) Government have approved a number of Oil & Gas field development and gas processing & transportation projects. Private sector participation in the sector is also being encouraged.

Setting up of LPG Bottling Plants near consuming Centres

342. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has decided to set up a chain of medium range LPG bottling plants near consuming centres;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of places identified for setting up of each LPG bottling plant;

(d) whether adequate safety measures would be taken into account before setting up of each centres; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (e) LPG bottling plants with different capacities are set up on techno-economic considerations after obtaining necessary safety clearances from concerned statutory authorities. Bottling plants at following locations are either under construction or proposed to be set up by I.O.C. during the 8th plan period :

1. Delhi
2. Bikaner
3. Farukhabad
4. Patiala
5. Akola
6. Ahmedabad
7. Bhavnagar
8. Calcutta
9. Tripura
10. Manipur
11. Mizoram
12. Sikkim
13. Guwahati
14. Cuddapah
15. Trichy/Tanjore
16. Madras